

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FINALIZES LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM (CONFRONTO)
WITH THE PCI

REF: PALERMO 0751 (TO ROME ONLY)

1. SUMMARY:

FOLLOWING A ONE-MONTH-LONG "CONFRONTO", THE DC, PCI, PSI, PSDI AND PRI APPROVED A COMMON LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM ON NOV. 20, 1975, THUS AVOIDING A REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CRISIS THREATENED BY THE SOCILALISTS, MENTIONED IN PALERMO'S 0751 TO ROME ONLY. THE FIVE PARTIES FOUND A COMPROMISE WHICH SATISFIED NOT ONLY THE PSI'S DESIRES TO HAVE THE PCI FULLY ASSOCIATED WITH ALL SUCCESSES AND FAILURES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM BUT ALSO THE VIEWS OF THE OTHERS THAT THE PCI WAS AN OPPOSITION

PARTY TEMPORARILY COLLABORATING WITH THE CENTER-LEFT ON A LEGISLATIVE LEVEL. ACTUALLY THE FUNDIMENTAL REASON FOR PSI CAVING IN WAS THAT THE 12 PSI REGIONAL DEPUTIES COULD NOT FACE THE JUNE 1976 REGIONAL ELECTION AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY.

END OF SUMMARY

2. BETWEEN NOW AND APRIL 1976, WHEN THE PRESENT LEGISLATIVE EXPIRES, THE 5-PARTY ACCORD IS EXPECTED TO (1) REDEFINE PROGRAMS, FUNDINGS AND NIMINATIONS OF NEW EXECUTIVES OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC ENTITIES, (2) DECENTRALIZE FUNCTIONS FROM THE REGION TO THE LOCAL
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ENTITIES, AND (3) REFORM THE LAW REGULATING THE ELECTION OF REGIONAL

DEPUTIES.

3. THE PCI HAS FINALLY AND FORMALLY FORCED THE CENTER-LEFT PARTIES TO ADMIT THAT THEY CAN ONLY GOVERN WITH THE HELP OF THE PCI. THIS SET-UP SPARES THE RULING COALITION THE NIGHTMARE OF SNIPERS (FRANCHI TIRATORI) SYSTEMATICALLY VETOING GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION, FORMALLY ESTABLISHES A COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF THE EMPLOYMENT, AND TONES DOWN THE HARSH ASPECTS OF ROME'S CURRENT ECONOMIC POLICIES. THIS PUTS THE PCI IN A POSITION TO GRAB A SHARE OF SICILY'S HUGE "APPARATO CLIENTELARE".

4. WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE FUTURE

WHILE THE "CONFRONTO" AVOIDED A COLLAPSE OF THE GOVERNMENT COALITION, THE GOVERNMENT-OPPOSITION MECHANICS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY BROKE DOWN FOR GOOD, LEAVING THE DESTRA NAZIONALE AS THE SOLE SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION PARTY IN THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOW MOVED CLOSER TO A SORT OF POLITICAL BIPOLARISM WHERE THE PCI IS THE ONLY FORCE CAPABLE OF OPPOSING THE DC. CHIAVARINI

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